

Legislative Relationship
OLC RECORD COPY

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24 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dick Kerr, EO/IC Staff

SUBJECT : Role of DCI as Spokesman to Congress

1. Pursuant to EO 11905 the DCI is the principal foreign intelligence advisor to the President, and Chairman of the CFI. Building from the 1972 Nixon memorandum which reconfirmed the role of DCI as head of the Intelligence Community, it is recognized that the DCI should be and is generally perceived to be the official Congress looks to for policy statements and general information on the intelligence function of the Government.

2. It is recognized, however, that EO 11905 in establishing the CFI, names the DCI as Chairman but is silent on whether or not other members are subordinate or equal. This uncertainty is further compounded by changes envisioned under PRM 11.

3. Precedence, however, has been set during the past two years by the appearance of the DCI before the Appropriations Committees and this year before the SSCI as the lead witness and person responsible for presentation of the NFIP. To this degree then, Congress recognizes the DCI as the spokesman for the National Foreign Intelligence Budget and thus his primacy as Community spokesman appears to be accepted.

4. In principle, while the DCI is the principal spokesman, he is not the only spokesman; witness testimony by DoD officials, Secretary of State and Service Chiefs in support of their budgets as well as appearances by officials of other Community agencies. On substantive matters, however, it would appear in the last few years that Congress has come to recognize that the DCI is charged with the responsibility for managing the Community and thus is answerable to Congress on overall Community matters as well as CIA matters.

5. Past perceptions by Congress and the public at large, recognized the DCI as essentially D/CIA. As Congress and the public have become educated to the nature of the Intelligence Community and the existence of other Community agencies as part of this Community, they have similarly come to see the DCI in his role as Community chief. Although it would appear that Congress still recognizes the DCI as coordinator of the Community rather than Line Commander of all agencies.



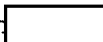
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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